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3

EXTRACTS OF A FEW LETTERS AND NOTICES

RECEIVED AT THE

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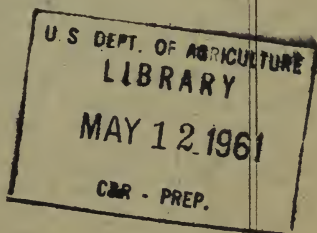
GEN. WM. G. LE^ODUC,

—AND—

COPIES OF SOME OF THE PAPERS FILED WITH PRESIDENT HAYES IN
1877, RECOMMENDING HIM FOR THE POSITION OF

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE. ||

WASHINGTON, D. C.
1881. //





UNSOLICITED OPINIONS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE ENTITLED TO BE HEARD.

PROF. H. M. SEELEY,

Middlebury College, Vt., writes:

"It is delightful to observe the grip the Commissioner of Agriculture has taken upon his department, and we realize more than ever what failures have been made heretofore. We now see the possibilities of the Department; this good work must go on until agricultural interests are more fully recognized. I do not know how soon this will come about, but this I know, such Reports (1878) will hasten the time."

E. W. HILGARD,

Prof. in University of California.

"Allow me at the same time to express my high appreciation of the policy adopted by you of issuing, apart from the Annual Report and the Crop Bulletin, treatises on special subjects, written by specialists for the information of the public from the most authentic sources and so fresh from their pen as to present the latest aspect of their subject. I hope you will continue and enlarge the practice."

M. J. BEAL,

Prof. of Agricultural College, Lansing, Mich.

"I have received your investigations of diseases of swine and think it very valuable. Many of these experiments need repeating from year to year in various portions of the country. Why not give something respectable in amount for such investigations as well as for dredging muddy rivers and poor harbors?"

J. T. TICHENOR,

Prest. Agricultural College, Auburn, Ala.

"To say that I have been gratified in the perusal of your report for 1878, is but feebly to express my admiration of its value. From the time you entered upon your duties as Commissioner, I have not failed to observe and applaud your efforts to save the millions of dollars our people pay for foreign sugars; and though the press have sneered at your efforts, I have felt a profound conviction that you would succeed."

C. F. MORRELL,

Prof. of Agricultural Industrial University of Ills.

"I have only been able to give a very hasty examination to your Annual report 1878 just received in the University Library, but am very favorably impressed with its value, particularly am glad at the progress you have made in the sorghum sugar investigation. Next year I hope we may be able to aid you in further testing this matter here.

J. B. KILLEBREW,
Commissioner of Agriculture, Tenn.

"Please accept thanks for copies of your report. Have as yet only had an opportunity to partially glean the pages over. But I am convinced that it is one of the most valuable reports issued by the Department of Agriculture."

M. B. BATEMAN, Sec.,
State Horti. Soc., Painesville, Ohio.

I wish to thank you for copies of the Annual Report, I have read most of the contents with much interest and can say I think it the best annual report yet issued by the Department.

J. D. WHITTAKER, Chairman,
State Grange, West Virginia.

"As you seem to be doing more than any of your predecessors I write to acknowledge your efforts and to say that we should have taken more notice of them in our late meeting had we thought such action would have accorded with your wishes.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, Sec.,
Horti. Society, Warsaw, Ill.

"I wish further to say that the contribution of seed from your office has been of great value to us. Our best field and garden corn, our best squashes, carrots, radishes, potatoes, our grand improvement in sugar cane and many other seed with which we have been favored are all appreciated.

The Fultz wheat received from you has increased our wheat crop in this vicinity more than fifty thousand bushels this year alone. I see you are getting somewhat abused in the newspapers at which I am disgusted, but pardon me when I say that I admire your straight forward, firm, and energetic course."

W. H. TAYLOR,
Sec. Grange, Hennipin Co., Minn.

"They, the Grange, regard the efforts of blackguard editors to weaken your influence, with honest indignation; such is the fate of all benefactors of our race—incur the ill will and ridicule of these vampires, and you need not expect exemption from their malice."

R. BAKER,
President Stock Association, Ohio.

"I hope my dear sir, you will not think I am dissatisfied with the management of the Department, for I consider that under your direction the Department has been more efficient than under any of your predecessors; and I do heartily congratulate you upon bringing it up to a higher standard of excellence and usefulness.

DECEMBER 21, 1878.

CHAS. N. ELEY,

Smiths' Point, Chalmers County, Texas, says :

I find your reports more interesting and instructive than any of the preceding issues. The article on sugar is very interesting, and will lead to increased interest in the question of our supply of that necessary article.

Your effort to promote tea culture will, in my opinion, revolutionize the tea trade.

It is plain that the introduction and dissemination of all new plants, fruits etc. from foreign countries, is the especial province and duty of your Department, and the steps you have taken in that direction in the limited time you have been in office, will result in more lasting benefit to the country at large, than any act of any other government officer.

JANUARY 26, 1879.

Resolutions passed by State Grange of Minnesota, Samuel E. Adams, Master.

Resolved : That the Agricultural Department has been of inestimable advantage to the agricultural interests of the United States, and that the same would and ought to be further promoted by making the office of Commissioner of Agriculture a Cabinet office.

Resolved : That we request our Senators and Representatives in Congress from the State of Minnesota, to use all honorable means to accomplish this result.

Resolved : That we censure and condemn all papers and politicians, who advocate the abolition of the Department of Agriculture, and the substitution of its legitimate business to the other bureaus of the Government.

The above resolutions were unanimously passed by the State Grange of Minnesota at its last annual session, at Albert Lea, on the 16th and 17th insts.

[Signed,]

SAMUEL E. ADAMS,

Master.

FEBRUARY 1, 1879.

JNO. D. THOMPSON,

Laclede County, Missouri.

This well known farmer, with an experience of forty years, says :

"The most important service your Department has ever rendered American Agriculture was the introduction of the sorghum plant for the production of molasses, which I hope and believe, will, by means of the experiments you are now carrying on, be rendered complete by the production of a good quality of cane sugar from the same by some process within the reach of every farmer.

Your reports have an educational influence among farmers above price ; many a house having no other library than the Holy Bible and a few of your volumes."

FEBRUARY 10, 1879.

GEORGE HAY,

Seneca, Kansas.

I have recently read a copy of your report for '77, and also for '78. I think they are the most valuable reports that have yet emanated from the Department of Agriculture.

Your very exhaustive reports of the diseases peculiar to hogs and other farm animals, and the valuable reports and observations made relative to the manufacture of molasses and sugar from sorghum, cornstalks and beets, with much other practical information from your various fields of labor are all of incalculable value to our country.

FEBRUARY 11, 1879.

THOMAS BRIDGER,

Walker County, Alabama, writes :

The value of your agricultural report for 1878 cannot be estimated in dollars and cents ; for it not only supplies valuable information in a condensed form, but it gives rise to a spirit of inquiry and to a desire for improvement particularly needed in the southern states. * * * * I have endeavored to give all seeds received from the Department a fair trial, and I can truly say that during the past few years not a single kind has failed entirely, and many have proved very valuable additions to the hitherto very scanty stock grown in this section of the country. It would be impossible to set a money value upon the benefits your Department has conferred upon the country, but it is seen and felt here.

FEBRUARY 15, 1879.

BARON VON TREUNER,

Austria.

"I thank you very much for your annual report. I will be very glad if I can receive annually this valuable and interesting work, and will send with pleasure, in exchange, my publications."

DECEMBER 15, 1879.

WM. BACON,

Richmond, Mass.

"The four copies of 'Diseases of swine and other animals,' were duly received and show very conclusively that those employed thoroughly understood their business. The work cannot fail to benefit the country to an extent many times exceeding its cost to the Government."

DECEMBER 18, 1879.

J. A. POFF,

Russell Kansas,

"I recognize the vast improvement in the Department during your administration and can cheerfully make an effort to influence President Garfield to retain as efficient an officer as you have been no matter who the rival applicants are. Advise me if I can possibly assist you in any way and I will gladly comply."

DECEMBER 24, 1879.

J. M. JOSEPH,

Custon, Iowa.

"I have observed the persistent war waged against the Department of Agriculture, by the N. Y. Tribune and the Prairie Farmer. For myself, I am free to say I have had more useful information from the reports than from all other sources."

APRIL 28, 1879.

W. L. ROBINSON,

Tallahassee, Florida, to Hon. R. H. M. Davidson.

"The Hon. Wm. G. LeDuc is certainly a most attentive and efficient manager of his Department, and the agriculturists of our country owe him a debt of gratitude for the earnest interest in their advancement, and his conscientious devotion to the minor details of his vast and troublesome, and yet most important branch of the government."

JANUARY 1, 1880.

Prof. J. P. SHELDON,

Sheon, England, Professor in the Royal Agricultural College.

"I beg you will accept my warm thanks for your most valuable and elaborate report on the agriculture of the United States for 1878. It will be regarded as a classic among reports."

JANUARY 9, 1880.

ED. M. PACE,

Lynchburg, Va., a well known tobacco manufacturer.

"I have read with very great pleasure your annual report on Tobacco and must say it is by far the ablest article on the subject of tobacco I ever saw, from the plant bed to the time the planter has his money in hand for it. I should like very much to be the means or medium by which several thousand copies could be circulated in this tobacco section."

FEBRUARY 13th, 1880.

J. H. MOORE,

Oakley, Ark., says:

"I must thank you for the great interest you have taken in agriculture; you have done much more for us than all your predecessors combined."

FEBRUARY 16, 1880.

H. I. C. MACINTOSH,
Herman, Grant County, Minn.

"I have read and re-read your report of 1878, and have gotten a vast deal of very useful information from it that it was impossible for me to have otherwise obtained. * * * I hope you may be long permitted to fill your present position, or a still more distinguished one, but always at the head of that Department which you have so earnestly and so successfully striven to elevate to the rank which it deserves in an agricultural country like ours."

FEBRUARY 20, 1880.

Hon. LUCIAN BARBOUR,
Indianapolis, Ind.

"The successful manufacture of grained sugar from sorghum and cornstalks will be an immense addition to our wealth. I am thankful that you have accomplished this end. You are entitled to the thanks of the nation."

FEBRUARY 21, 1880.

E. M. HUDSON,
New Orleans, La.

"I note with great satisfaction the movement to make the Commissioner of Agriculture a Cabinet minister, and earnestly hope that it will succeed. Do what we may in the individual states, it is to the general Government we must look for that encouragement to agriculture which will make it both practical and intelligent with the greatest speed. Hence I look forward to the publications of your Department always with eagerness.

* * * * * With new machinery the day of sorghum sugar is at hand. I am convinced that the next decade will see the culture of cane sugar even in Louisiana lessened 75 per cent below what it is now. It seems to me you have solved the problem in the face of almost universal opposition."

FEBRUARY 22nd, 1880.

G. C. CAMPELL,
Green Vine, Texas, writes :

"It is with no small degree of admiration that I notice the improvement made in your annual reports since you have had control of the Agricultural Department, and the skill and energy manifested by you in improving and diversifying agricultural production. The advantage resulting to the agriculturalists of the country through your indefatigable labor is not to be estimated."

FEBRUARY 23, 1880.

Hon. THOMAS M. BAYNE,
23d Dist., Pennsylvania.

"For myself and those of my constituents whom I have heard

speaking of your administration, I desire to say that it has done credit to yourself and been of the greatest advantage to the country. Without disparaging others, I freely say that it is the most efficient the country has ever had. I say this simply because I think a worthy official should be commended when he does well, as an inefficient one should be condemned when he does not meet the requirements of his office."

MARCH 7, 1880.

J. F. H. CLAIBORNE,
Natchez, Mississippi.

"Notwithstanding what a few flippant and captious critics have said, I beg to assure you that the substantial masses of the entire country, without distinction of party, honor your name and services."

APRIL 1, 1880.

GIBBONS PARRY,
Paris, Henry County, Ohio.

"Should the amber cane prove a success, your name, and your chemist's name will stand side by side with those of Newton and Whitney.

APRIL 1, 1880.

Dr. JAMES WARREN,
Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Md.

"Your reports are certainly the best that ever came from the Department since it was established."

At the annual meeting of the Maine State Grange which was held in the Town Hall in Waterville, Dec. 21, 22 and 23, Worthy Master, Thing presided, and at the opening of the afternoon session of the first day, presented his annual address, in the course of which he made the following recommendation:

"That we petition President-elect Garfield for the retention of the present efficient and earnest Commissioner, Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc, who by his appreciation of the wants of Agriculture, coupled with energy and indomitable perseverance, has in spite of ridicule, slander, opposition and discouragement, raised the Department to an elevation which it has never before enjoyed."

NOVEMBER 15th, 1880.

LOUIS BOLLMAN,
Bloomington, Ind., says:

"I cannot refrain from expressing to you my admiration for the broad views you have taken to make our agriculture supply all our wants, more especially in those tropical products for the purchase of which we as a nation, send abroad so many millions annually."

DECEMBER 2nd, 1880.

HIRAM CORNFORT,
West Waterville, Me., says:

"You are doing a good work and the farmers everywhere appreciate it. Never mind the editors.

DECEMBER 28th, 1880.

DR. SAMUEL P. BROWN,
Cartersville Va., says:

"The farmers and planters of Virginia look upon you as the best friend they have ever had in the Department of Agriculture. I have many letters suggesting the propriety of a petition from the farmers of the southern states to Gen'l Garfield asking for your retention in office. Of one thing you may be certain, whether you be retained or no, wherever you may go you will carry with you the good will and kind wishes of a large number of the farmers and planters of the south. We feel well assured that you have done all in your power to promote the great interests of agriculture.

DECEMBER 29th, 1880.

CHAS. H. SHINN,
San Francisco, Cal.

"We appreciate your work for the United States and have several times spoken of it at length editorially in articles on sugar, coffee, sorghum, &c."

JANUARY 1st, 1881.

JAMES KNOTT,
Moroa, Ill., says:

"Allow me again to thank you for the interest and the energy you have shown in your management. You have infused new life into a Department that seemed to be drifting into contempt and ridicule and have put the agricultural community under obligations which it will be hard to repay. I hope you may be long retained in your present position—certainly long enough to see your hopes and efforts crowned with success."

JANUARY 7th, 1881.

A. J. RUSSELL,
President of Wisconsin cane-growers and manufacturing association, Fansville, Wis., writes:

"The largest meeting of cane growers and manufacturers ever held in this vicinity passed a resolution that a memorial to President elect Garfield be presented begging that he would in the best interests of the agricultural classes continue you in your present office."

JANUARY 7, 1881.

JAMES T. EARLE,

Centreville.

"The exhibition (Sheep and Wool) at Philadelphia the past year is the first that has been made by our Government in behalf of this great and important industry. To yourself is due the credit of its inauguration and I should be very much pleased to see you continued in your position that you might have an opportunity of developing your policy. I of course can know nothing of the purpose of the President elect.

"He is a man of profound ability and with statesmanship and wisdom to make us a very able President. Democrat as I am, I am satisfied of this."

JANUARY 10, 1881.

J. WINNE,

Albany, N. Y.

"I had the honor of making a personal acquaintance with Gen. LeDuc at Albany, and of renewing it at the Philadelphia "State Fair, Sheep and Wool Show," and having at these meetings formed a very exalted opinion of his honesty, perseverance and integrity, and of his ability to further and better our interests, I feel that the farmers of the land should stand by and sustain him in the good work he has done."

JANUARY 11, 1881.

J. A. APPLEGATE,

Mt. Carmel, Ind.

"I have a very high opinion of the activity, intelligence and efficiency of the present Commissioner of Agriculture, Gen. LeDuc; and I should exceedingly regret his being superseded. Without making invidious comparisons, I will say, that having been a correspondent during the time of his immediate predecessor, I have been greatly encouraged in the agricultural interests of the people by the help they have received since the present Commissioner began his work, and I would regard his removal as a calamity to the country."

JANUARY 11, 1881.

CHARLES F. SCHOLL,

Memphis, Ind.

"I am a German and cannot write well in English, therefore please excuse me. We Germans here are mostly all Republicans and we all unite in the hope that you will be taken into the President's Cabinet."

JANUARY 11, 1881.

E. W. SMITH,

Hayes City, Kansas.

"A strong effort should be made on the part of the agricultur-

ists of our Country to have Gen. LeDuc retained as Commissioner of Agriculture. Having developed new and important branches of agriculture, as for instance, tea and sugar, he ought to have an opportunity to perfect them and to derive all the credit that belongs to their success."

JANUARY 12, 1881.

P. D. BOWLES,
Evergreen, Ala.

"I am satisfied the Government will not find a man within its vast extent, who belongs to or rather is republican in politics whose appointment would be more acceptable to the people of this section than Gen. LeDuc; his large views and liberal action have caused even the southern press to speak in his praise."

H. O. SMITH,
North Parsonfield, Me.

"I ask myself is the present Commissioner of Agriculture efficient? Will a new man improve the business?"

None of those advocating a change have pointed out a better man than the present Commissioner or a better system than he has adopted. My motto is, "Stick to the old road till you have found a better one."

JANUARY 12, 1881.

T. R. COLLINS,
Mikesville, Fla.

"No one has filled the position which Gen. LeDuc now occupies with more honor to himself and to the nation than has Gen. LeDuc, and therefore the farmers of the country should unite in getting him retained, if possible, during the administration of President Garfield.

JANUARY 12, 1881.

AUGUSTE DUPUIS,
Cor. Sec. County of L'Islet, Hort. Soc., Canada West.

"Wishing to endow the library of our Horticultural Society with good books and believing that the reports of your Department are among the very best, I take the liberty to ask you the permission of purchasing the last five or six, &c. I have found them so interesting, embracing so many subjects of actual and future interest not only to farmers but to all members of society that I have pointed them out to my countrymen as worthy of their special study."

JANUARY 13, 1881.

SIDNEY SCUDDER,
Galveston, Texas.

"The immense agricultural interests of the United States demand that the Commissioner of Agriculture should be a Cabinet

JANUARY 15, 1881.

F. J. COPE,
Greensburg, Pa.

"I think Mr. LeDuc has made an excellent Commissioner of Agriculture, and Gen. Garfield knows it. If his reappointment follows, (and I hope and believe it will.) I think Congress ought to make this officer a member of the Cabinet."

JANUARY 15, 1881.

CHARLES WILLIAMSON,
Washington, Kan., Says :

"I have written at some length to the President elect giving my reasons why the interests of the Agricultural Department and of the western states require your continuance in your present position so that you may perfect the good work already begun."

JANUARY 16, 1881.

JOSEPH D. BEACH,
Coal Run, Ohio, says :

"I would say that we as a farming community, especially those of us who belong to the Patrons of Husbandry, are contemplating your efforts for the advancement of agriculture with liveliest interests. Please accept through me our warmest regards."

JANUARY 18, 1881.

J. W. HENDERSON,
Sulphur Springs, Texas, says :

"Allow me to express to you my wish that you may be, during the next four years at least, retained in your present position. Agriculture is receiving too little attention from the Government and from the people."

JANUARY 18, 1881.

J. J. LUCAS,
Society Hill, S. C., says :

"Allow me to express the hope that you will be retained in the Department of Agriculture under the next administration and raised to a cabinet position. The great interest displayed by you in every branch of agriculture and horticulture calculated to advance the material interests of this section, makes this wish, I think, universal."

JANUARY 20, 1881.

D. WHITTAKER,
Warsaw, Ill.

"I have been a correspondent of the Department for 22 years consecutively, and believe that Gen. LeDuc has inaugurated wiser and better plans of benefiting the farming interest and developing new industries looking to the present and future good"

of his country than any half dozen of his predecessors combined. It would indeed be a serious mistake now to change the policy marked out for the benefit of agriculture or the head of the Department inaugurating that policy."

JANUARY 22, 1881.

S. A. KNAPP,

Prof. of Agri'l. Iowa States Agri'l. College, Ames, Iowa, says:

"I believe it is for the good of the country that you remain in your present position. Besides the endorsement of our college I can secure other influences in Iowa to aid you."

JANUARY 27, 1881.

GEO. H. WELLS,

Lake Charles Par, La.

"Desiring to see you retained in a position of great usefulness and one in which your services have proven of great practical benefit to the country at large I hope I may be of some service in influencing your continuance as Commissioner of Agriculture."

March 25, 1881.

JOS. SULLIVANT,

Columbus Ohio,

"The Truth is the Reports had become so trifling and trashy I had ceased to take interest in them but am happy to say your reports are a great improvement and have revived my interest in the Department. It is due you that you should be permitted to carry out plans and experiments you have inaugurated but I see that the politicians and grinders are busy against you and others are indicated for your place, indicated by the press only as yet but not by the President, and I trust he will not."

FEBRUARY 6, 1881.

W. M. FERGUSON,

Rock Vale, Tex, says:

"We are in favor of having your Department made equal in rank with other cabinet offices and to promote this object I have the honor of sending to our Congressman, the Hon. G. W. Jones, a petition from the grange of which I am the master demanding his aid in promoting this object."

FEBRUARY 10, 1881.

GAINES, COLES & CO.

State Line, Miss.

"There appears to be a growing demand for tea plants all over the southern country, due we think, to your efforts to induce people to engage in it as a new industry. If your experiments should demonstrate the profitable cultivation of tea the benefit to the entire country would be incalculable."

FEBRUARY 16, 1881.

C. W. MILES,

St. Laundry, La.

"Mr. W. G. Le Duc as Commissioner of Agriculture by his

earnest and unceasing attention to all the branches of agriculture, his strenuous exertions in the matter of cattle and hog diseases, of tea culture, sugar production, and last but not least, of cotton is entitled to be called a benefactor to his kind, has fairly earned the lasting gratitude of the country, and I, and many about here think that to remove him would be detrimental to the best interests of the farmers. I am determined therefore to get up a petition in my neighborhood requesting the President elect to continue the present incumbent in office in order that he may finish those important measures and experiments he has inaugurated. Any change made in this Department at this time would be a great misfortune to the people."

FEBRUARY 21, 1881.

J. B. WHITE,

Nashville, Tenn., says :

It is the desire of the country that Gen. LeDuc be retained at the head of the Department of Agriculture. Our senators, Harrison and Jackson, are instructed to have you retained if possible."

FEBRUARY 22, 1881.

PAUL DEJAUDIN,

French Consul at Charleston, S. C.

"Allow me to express the wish that the new administration shall keep your services in the Department you have directed so ably and with such great profit to the country."

FEBRUARY 25, 1881.

N. L. COUNTRYMAN,

Hastings, Minn.

"It is drawing near to the time when a new administration is to take hold of the affairs of Government ; but my dear sir, for one, I hope you may be retained in the place you now occupy ; not because you are an old neighbor, nor because you are from the State of Minnesota, but because you have made the Agricultural Department more than a point from which to distribute a few seeds and reports. I have kept watch of the operations of this Department for many years and am sincere in saying that your faithfulness in developing the one industry of sugar from Amber Cane is alone worth to the country all the rest beside. Allow me to express the wish that you may retain your place and be successful in finally bringing the agricultural department to be recognized as worthy of being placed along side the others."

FEBRUARY 26, 1881.

J. T. CLARKSON,

President Nebraska State Board of Agriculture.

"I am one of the many who appreciate the great value to the country, of your labors during the past two years in behalf of the sugar interest."

ABRAM BROWN,

South Dixon, Ill., says :

"You have been a great improvement upon your predecessors ; you deserve well the thanks of the agricultural people for elevating and dignifying farming in their own view and estimation.

J. A. LINTNER,

State Entomologist, Albany, N. Y.

"I am delighted to see the activity characterizing your Department since under your direction, and the vary valuable results you have already obtained.

Should it be thought best by the incoming administration to change its direction I should regret it as a personal loss."

At a meeting of the *Minnesota Amber Cane Growers Association*, held at Minneapolis, January 20, 1881, the following Telegram was dispatched to the Commissioner of Agriculture at Washington :—

"The Minnesota Amber Cane Growers, in convention assembled, send your greetings. First for our Country and next for ourselves, we express our acknowledgments for the most valuable and efficient services you have rendered during your administration to an industry destined, we believe, soon to become the leading one in our land. We congratulate you upon such encouraging prospects and hope you may be permitted to enjoy the fruits of your zealous labors in the cause which brings us together to-day."

To James A. Garfield, President of the United States :

SIR :—Recognizing the great influence which the Commissioner of Agriculture exerts over the industry in which we, as instructors in various Agricultural Colleges, are especially interested, we beg leave to request that the present incumbent of that office, Hon. Wm. G. LeDuc, be re-appointed under your administration.

Previous to his appointment the Department of Agriculture had been of comparatively little advantage to the country, but by his untiring industry and his intimate acquaintance with the needs and resources of the country Mr. LeDuc has won to his department universal respect and admiration. He has inaugurated the manufacture of sugar in the Northern States and so stimulated the interest of others in the enterprise that, under his encouragement, success is fairly in sight—a success that will effect a saving to the country of nearly 100,000,000 dollars annually. The home production of tea has been undertaken by him with equal enthusiasm and his prospects in that direction are flattering in the highest degree. He has redeemed his department from the name of "The Government Seed Store" and confined the distribution of seeds to new and valuable varieties which are sent direct to parties who will make intelligent

use of them. He has made the chemical and entomological divisions of much greater practical utility than heretofore and into the whole department has infused new life and energy.

Reorganizing his department and preparing for more active work have consumed both time and money which will be lost, should the department be placed in other hands.

In our personal relations with Mr. LeDuc in his official capacity we cannot speak too highly of the gentlemanly courtesy with which he has received our suggestions and furnished to us all desired information.

Believing that more good to the country can be accomplished by retaining the present commissioner than by the appointment of a new man who must necessarily be in a great measure unacquainted with his duties, we earnestly hope that Mr. LeDuc may be continued at the head of the Department of Agriculture during the ensuing four years.

It is only just to Mr. LeDuc to state that our request is made without solicitation or suggestion on his part.

NAME.	COLLEGE.	POSITION.
G. C. SWALLOW,	Missouri Ag. College,	Dean and Prof. of Agriculture.
P. SCHWEITZER,	" " "	Prof. of Chemistry.
GEO. HUSMANN,	" " "	Prof. Pomology and Forestry.
S. M. TRACEY,	" " "	Prof. Botany and Entomology.
JNO. G. JAMES,	Ag. & Mech. of Texas,	President.
D. POST SMYTHE, M. D.,	" " "	Prof. Anatomy, Physiology, &c
LOUIS L. McINNIS,	" " "	Prof. Mathematics.
C. GARTNER,	" " "	Prof. of Modern Languages.
FRANKLIN VAN WINKLE,	" " "	Prof. Mechanical Engineering.
C. P. ESTILL,	" " "	Prof. Anc. Languages.
H. H. DINWIDDIE,	" " "	Prof. Chemistry and Physics.
J. R. COLE,	" " "	Prof. English Lan. Lit. and His
C. C. GEORGESON,	" " "	Prof. Agriculture & Horticulture
A. S. WELCH,	Iowa Ag. College,	President.
S. A. KNAPP,	" " "	Deau. of Schorl of Agriculture.
J. L. BUDD,	" " "	Prof. Horticulture & Forestry.
S. W. STANTON,	" " "	Prof. of Math. & Sec. of Coll.
GEO. T. FAIRCHILD,	Kansas State Ag. Coll,	President.
E. M. SHELTON,	" " "	Prof. of Agriculture.
W. A. HENRY,	University of Wis.	Prof. of Agriculture.
W. W. DANIELLS,	" " "	Prof. of Chemistry.
WILLIAM W. FOLWELL,	University of Minn.	President &c.
JAMES A. DODGE,	" " "	Prof. Chemistry.
C. W. HALL,	" " "	Prof. Geol. Min. & Biol.
JABIS BANKS,	" " "	Prof. of Greek.
J. C. MOORE,	" " "	Prof. of German.
J. F. DOWNEY,	" " "	Prof. Math. & Astron.
N. H. WINCHELL,	" " "	Prof. Geol. & State Geologist.
ALEX. T. ORMAND,	" " "	Prof. Philosophy.
CHARLES W. BENTON,	" " "	Prof. of French.

At a meeting of the South Carolina Board of Agriculture held Feb. 15, 1881, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

“Resolved. That the Board of Agriculture of the State of South Carolina fully endorse the faithful and successful management of the Agricultural Department, of the United States by the Hon. Wm. LeDuc for the past four years.

Resolved. That the State of South Carolina is greatly indebted to the said W. G. LeDuc, for the earnest efforts he has made to advance the agricultural interests and especially in introducing improved seeds, and new industries into the state.

Resolved. That this Board would regard it as a misfortune to the state and the whole country, for the said LeDuc, not to be continued for four years longer in his present office, so that he may more fully carry out the system of improvement he has inaugurated, and further that the Board do earnestly request President Garfield to continue him in office during his term.”

At its last meeting the California State Grange adopted the following resolutions.

“Resolved. That considering the great ability, zeal, and good judgment the Hon. Wm. G. LeDuc has exhibited in the discharge of his duties as Commissioner of Agriculture, singles him out from among the many qualified persons as being pre-eminently fitted to fill the position of Secretary of Agriculture and we therefore earnestly recommend him as a suitable person to be appointed to that position.”

JOSHUA SCHULL,

*Sec., New York State Dairyman's Association,
Ilion, N. Y.*

HON. W. G. LEDUC,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir :

Unsolicited by yourself, I take the liberty of addressing the accompanying letter to the President which you may hand him if you desire. I am not a candidate for office, but feel as though you are doing a vast service for agriculture, therefore tender what I have to say, freely.

Respectfully Yours,

JOSHUA SCHULL.

Ilion N. Y. March 21, 1881,

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ;

Dear Sir :

“The Department of Agriculture at Washington has steadily increased in favor since it has been under the management of the present incumbent.

At the last annual meeting of the N. Y. State Dairyman's Association it was the general wish that the Department be continued under its present Commissioner. It is the universal wish of our best informed farmers with whom I have come in contact that the Hon. W. G. LeDuc be continued as Commissioner of Agriculture.

It is hoped that no man will be appointed as a reward for political services, but for such services as have been rendered by Gen. LeDuc.

Very respectfully yours,

JOSHUA SCHULL.

BENJAMIN S. PARDEE,

Westville, Conn,

“People of New England have never favored the idea of the Bureau over which you so efficiently preside. It has been looked upon as a nice little way of providing western congressmen with political *bumcome* at the expense of the country. This impression still obtains to a great extent.

Some of the leading members of agricultural and horticultural societies of New Haven county, recently were comparing notes on this question and it was conceded that under your administration there was reason to hope that the area of the efficient work of the Department of Agriculture would be so enlarged, as to make it a factor of no mean importance to all sections of the Union.

It was urged that the first thing to that end was the doing away with the general prejudice against the Department. And it was thought that if our state societies and county clubs could be brought into a more thorough knowledge of your work, it would result in great benefit to the community.

DR. F. G. RICHARDSON,

University of Louisiana, New Orleans,

“I have just read in the Rural New Yorker a friendly notice of your administration of the Agricultural Department. I heartily subscribe to every word which it contains, and most sincerely trust that President Garfield will insist upon your remaining in a position which you have filled with so much honor to yourself and so great benefit to the country at large.

DUNCAN F. KENNER,

President, Louisiana Sugar Planter's Association,

"The Louisiana Sugar Planters Association deeply appreciate the consideration you show our great industry and the great interest manifested by you in its improvement and further development."

The Gardener's Monthly, says :

"We are dependent on other countries for the bulk of the sugar we use. Its production here is a legitimate task for the nation and it is to the credit of General LeDuc that he sees the importance of the subject and what is the real mission of the Government in regard to it."

B. W. WENTWORTH,

Waltham, Mass.

"If you escape the sneers of the press you will be more fortunate than your predecessors. They commenced as soon as you were appointed and will keep it agoing as long as you hold the office."

Bearing upon this point, the New Orleans Democrat says :

"If all the editors in the country were to devote to their business the same intelligent energy that Mr. LeDuc displays in his, the standard of journalism would rise 100 per cent. at a single bound."

The same paper goes on to say :—"There has been no head of a bureau at Washington who has brought more of energy, zeal and intelligence to the management of his Department than the Commissioner of Agriculture. He has possessed the faculty too, of embracing within the scope of his services the whole country. It is very certain that while he has been making the Department of Agriculture an agent of usefulness to the farmers and planters of the country, he has not confined its benefits to any particular section. Cotton, Jute, Sugar Cane, Rice, and other productions of the South have received from him the same attention shown to the productions of the North. In these unsectional labors he has shown an energy which has been equaled by no former incumbent of the office. An attempt to cast ridicule upon him will certainly react upon those who try it."

J. O. REYNOLDS,

Ashbury, Va.

"I sincerely hope for our country's good you will not leave your office upon the change of President."

GEO. W. BURBANK,

Binghampton, N. Y.

"If desired there could be one of the largest petitions from this State and county obtained in favor of retaining the present Commissioner of Agriculture."

F. R. MILLER,

Sugar Grove, Pa. says:

"I greatly wish Mr. Garfield could see the necessity of continuing the Department under its present head, and thus not interrupt the grand industrial experiments now being wrought through your Department."

E. LOUIS STURDEVANT,

South Farmingham, Mass.

"I desire the Department of Agriculture to become a power for good in this nation. Your report for 1879 is the best yet. It is to the point and wisely and strongly written."

J. W. SPARKS,

Murfreesboro, Tenn,

"I am uninformed as to your term of office, how held, or by whom appointed, but I infer the President appoints? Now I have no influence with the President but I am for you against the world—Democrat, Republican, White Man, Negro, Indian or Chinaman. I am so, simply because I am satisfied you have done more good for the agricultural community since you have been in power, than all the other Commissioners put together. I don't know you—never saw you; and I know you are a republican, while I am a democrat. You were an officer in the U. S. Army and I an officer in the Confederate Army during the war, so that nothing but a strong faith in you as a competent and efficient officer could induce me to write what I have done."

VICTOR E. PIOLETT,

Wysox, Pennsylvania.

"Herewith I hand you a copy of letter mailed to the President by the post that takes this."

WYSOX, PA., MARCH 5, 1881.

Dear Sir:

My name is before you in association with the other members of the National Grange, asking you to re-appoint the present Commissioner of Agriculture and perhaps this ought to suffice.

My anxiety to continue the present management compels me to write, so as if possible you be impressed with the universal

desire of American farmers to have you continue the Department in its present practical relation to Agriculture.

Despite an organized effort to write down Gen. LeDuc by a sort of vague innuendo, that gentleman has put himself and the Department in practical relation with farmers throughout the states; he has taught us how to make sugar with profit to the average farmer, and the future of the American people how to guard the domestic animals against diseases, and for the first time in the history of the Department of Agriculture, rendered it serviceable to us farmers. Though only a farmer and interested in your administration of the Government as it relates to agriculture, I most fervently implore you, President Garfield, to continue the present Commissioner of Agriculture in charge of the Department and give our great industry sufficient of your thought and time to subserve its true interests. By so doing you will attach our class in grateful remembrance.

Your friend,

VICTOR E. PIOLETT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

The Echo, Lake Charles, La.

"The Commissioner has largely extended the field of agricultural industry and information and has infused a previously unknown and wonderful vitality into the Agricultural Department. He has commanded and enjoys the approbation of intelligent agricultural journals and the respect of thousands who once attempted to amuse themselves at his expense, and he has achieved his distinguished success with but limited means, and under serious discouragements.

Justice to him; no less than to the great agricultural interests of the country, demands some public recognition of his public services and we earnestly hope that the President elect, (who by way is a sincere friend of the farming population) will at once gratify and benefit American Agriculturalists, and second a sound and just public sentiment by retaining General LeDuc at the head of the Agricultural Department."

Inter Ocean, Denver, Col.

"General LeDuc is the first Commissioner of Agriculture this country ever had who understood the importance of the trust confided to him, and who has brought to his office an intelligent comprehension of the country's need in an agricultural way. He is a man of ideas. He has shown where nearly two hundred millions may be saved to us annually, and he has set about saving it in a thoroughly practical way."

Rural New Yorker.

"It may now be seen that many agricultural journals who were at pains to speak of Commissioner LeDuc as a fool &c., for his advocacy of the northern sugar industry, are now urging farmers to plant early amber cane. But we have not seen that they have appologized to the Commissioner or acknowledged that in this instance they were themselves the fools."

Pacific Rural Press.

"Commissioner LeDuc has secured the approval and interest of the farming class as no one of his predecessors ever did. No man connected with the general government during the present administration has done more tireless, persistent, and valuable work for the real interests of the country than he. Of course he should be continued in the place."

Journal of Agriculture.

"Commissioner LeDuc should be continued in charge of the Department of Agriculture by the incoming administration, so that he may carry on the grand work he has now in hand. A predominant public sentiment throughout the great agricultural region of the west and south will, at the proper time, indicate the desire."

SETH H. KENNY,

Morristown, Min.

"I am continually receiving letters from all parts of the country commending your good work in sending out sorghum seed and otherwise advancing the great sugar interests. It would be surprising if you did not get the endorsement of our Cane Grower's Association."

From the Cleveland Leader.

"There is no denying that despite the ridicule cast upon Commissioner LeDuc by the press he has made the Bureau of Agriculture of vastly greater importance than when he went into it. He has been an enthusiast in his work, and many of his experiments have borne the stamp of his devotion to research. In the main he has done much to throw new light upon the actual resources of our soils and climates. As the Chicago Tribune says, the liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes show the strength of the Granger element in Congress, but it shows also that LeDuc has been indefatigable in urging upon Congress the necessity for enlarging the scope of the Agricultural Bureau and that his arguments have begun to have considerable weight. The resources of the country are

boundless and exhaustless, and the work of the bureau will bear great extension. Will the incoming administration allow Gen. LeDuc to go on with his work?

From the Home and Fireside.

As representatives of a large number of farmers of both political parties, we here propose saying to the President-elect that if he wishes to accomodate and to please thirty-seven millions of the people over whom he will preside, he will reappoint General LeDuc, the only man who ever had sense enough to fairly understand the position he holds.

If there ever was a right man in the right place, Gen. LeDuc is that man, and we hope the next President will reappoint him.

Letter from Seth H. Kenney to the editor of the "Husbandman."

"I am glad the practical farmers of your state and other states are beginning to recognize the services of our present Commissioner of Agriculture. It was through him that the country was largely indebted for the knowledge of Amber cane.

I exhibited a pail of sugar at the Minneapolis State Fair two years since and no premium given, and it never would have been recognized had not Gen. LeDuc in his travels found it. What the final results will be for Minnesota, at least it is easy for us to see.

Extract from an address by Col. Piolett, at Elmira.

"I wish I possessed the power to arouse the mind of every farmer in this land to resent the dastardly attacks that have been made upon the Department of Agriculture, which for the first time in its history, has a practical, educated farmer at its head.

Now gentlemen, I will introduce to you our worthy Commissioner of Agriculture, Gen. LeDuc; he has done more to promote the interest in which our capital is embarked, than any other man in the history of our Government.

The President and the Farmers:

Farmers, irrespective of political bias, have good reason, we trust, to congratulate themselves upon the accession of Mr. Garfield to the Presidential chair. He has the reputation of being a thorough and practical farmer, which his well cultivated acres in Ohio would seem to justify. Believing him to be in sympathy with agriculturists everywhere, we shall hope for his hearty co-operation in whatever may advance the great agricultural interests of the country, and the position which he occupies will enable him to wield a great and lasting influence in promoting these interests. In his inaugural address he says: "The inter-

ests of agriculture should have more attention from the Government than they have yet received. As the Government lights our coast for the protection of mariners and the benefit of commerce, so it should give to the tillers of the soil the best lights of practical science and experience." From these words we may infer that he is contemplating some practical solution of the problem concerning a cabinet position for the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture, though stinted in its appropriations, has been, under Gen. LeDuc, of great value to the material development of the country, and when elevated to equal rank and privilege with the other Departments, its value may be increased many fold.

We believe that President Garfield realizes the fact that this great branch of our productive forces has been ignored or treated in a grudging, half hearted way, as if it were a disgrace rather than an honor to place the Agricultural Department on an equal footing with the other Departments. The Government seems to be ashamed to recognize agriculture as the great foundation of wealth and power, although it cannot get rid of the fact that, as one has said, "The Nation dwells largely in the cottages and farm-houses of the country."

If the President wishes to win the grateful recognition of the great community of farmers, he will take the present opportunity to use his power to increase the capacity and usefulness of the Department of Agriculture.

RURAL NEW YORKER, *March 26, 1881.*

General LeDuc deserves great credit and the thanks of our people for the attention he has given this subject, of sorghum.

He commenced the work with the determination to solve the problem upon which so much is involved. With a perseverance unflinching, and an enthusiasm unabated, he has gone forward and accomplished results which no longer leaves success a question of doubt. He is rendering a most invaluable service to the country, not alone in this matter, but upon every other that comes within the limits of the Department; and by his energy and determination for success, is fast lifting it to the importance it deserves. We hope to see his arm strengthened by the strong arm of the Government, and liberal appropriations granted to this, one of the most important branches, and one of all others, in which the people of every class throughout the entire country are so vitally interested.

SOUTHERN PLANTER AND FARMER.

HON. D. WYATT AIKEN,

Cokesbury, S. C.

"I assure you as far as I have been able to judge, (and my op-

portunities have been great, your administration has been one of much satisfaction to the farmers of the Union, and had they a voice in the matter I am satisfied they would have you retained for four years more. As it is, they can say, and I do in their behalf, "well done good and faithful servant."

West Batavia, N. Y.

TO JAMES A. GARFIELD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Sir :

I believe that our present Commissioner of Agriculture is doing all that can be done under the limited means at his command and know that his course meets the approval of the farmers in this country.

JOHN. W. BROWN.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, Executive Department, *St Paul, April 2. 1877.*

**PAPERS FILED WITH PRESIDENT HAYES, A. D.
1877, in support of application for appointment.**

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT :

Learning that the name of Gen. W. G. LeDuc will be presented to you in connection with the office of Commissioner of Agriculture, we deem it proper to express to you the esteem in which Gen. Le Duc is held by the people among whom he has lived for more than a quarter of a century, and to bear testimony to the large mental capacity and force of character which we believe would enable him to discharge the duties of the position named with usefulness to the government and the people and credit to himself.

His appointment would be gratifying to the people of Minnesota not only as an honor to a worthy citizen but as a compliment to the State which has so early in its history attained a very high rank in agriculture.

J. S. PILLSBURY, Governor ;	WM. R. MARSHALL, Ex-Governor;
W. E. SAENCHER, State Treas. ;	O. P. WHITCOMB, Auditor of State;
J. S. IRGENS, Secretary of State ;	S. H. NICHOLS, Clerk Sup. Court;
A. R. MCGILL, Insurance Com.;	J. C. SHAW, State Librarian ;
PENNOCK PUSEY, Governor's Private Secretary.	

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, D. C. 1877.

HIS EXCELLENCY RUTHERFORD B. HAYES,

President.

Mr. President :

The undersigned Congressional Delegation of Minnesota, respectfully recommend to your Excellency, the appointment of Wm. G. LeDuc, late Bt. Brig. Genl., U. S. A., one of the earliest settlers and most prominent citizens of the North West, to the office of Commissioner of Agriculture. Gen. LeDuc we believe eminently fitted for the discharge of the duties of this position, not only by education and natural ability but also by

an extensive practical and theoretical acquaintance with agricultural processes and results, throughout the whole country, and by the high character he has ever maintained in every relation of life as citizen or soldier, or man of large experience in various business affairs.

Very respectfully

WM. WINDOM.

We very cordially concur in the above recommendation.

S. I. R. McMILLAN,	H. B. STRAIT,
H. H. HATHORN,	MARK H. DUNNELL,
JOHN B. SANBORN,	CHARLES HAYS, Ala.
CHAS. W. BUTZ, S. C.	MILTON S. ROBINSON, Ind.
G. L. FORT, 8th Dist. Ill.	J. H. RAINEY, S. C.
C. B. DARRALL, 3d La. Dist.	C. H. SINNICKSON, N. J.
FRANK MOREY, La.,	W. H. STOWELL, Va.
W. H. BAKER, N. Y.	W. McMICKEN,
A. S. WILLIAMS, 1st Dis. Mich.	Sur. Genl. W. T.
S. B. ELKINS, New Mexico,	S. S. FENN, Idaho,
W. F. SAPP,	HORACE AUSTIN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, D. C. March 12, 1877,

TO HON. WM. K. ROGERS.

Private Secretary to the President,

Sir:

As I was prevented by severe illness from appearing and joining personally in the application for the appointment of Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc as Commissioner of Agriculture, I desire to file through you for the President my hearty endorsement of the application filed with you, and to add that in view of the advanced age and well known inefficiency of the present head of that Department, and also in justice to the unfortunate citizens of my State who have been rendered destitute by the ravages of the locusts, and who should have expended for their benefit immediately the money appropriated by the last Congress to buy seeds to enable them to raise a crop this year.

I desire to urge the immediate appointment of Gen. LeDuc as Commissioner, whose familiarity with this matter as also his well known energetic character and knowledge will be a guarantee of a wise and thorough administration of the affairs of the Agricultural Department, a Department which should be of National use and benefit but which under present management is a nullity.

WM. S. KING.

M. C. 3d District Minnesota.

I heartily concur in the above statements and recommendation.

JOHN B. SANBORN.

Saint Paul, Minn., March 31, 1877.

HON. R. B. HAYES,

President of the United States,

Honored Sir :

The undersigned citizens of Minnesota having learned that Hon. Wm. G. LeDuc of our State has been recommended by our Congressional Delegation for appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture, would respectfully represent that we believe his appointment would be a worthy one, and that it would meet with the hearty endorsement of the Agriculturists of the North Western States. From an acquaintance of many years with the gentleman we think he is peculiarly qualified for the position. His practical experience as an Agriculturist, Horticulturist and Stock Breeder warrant us in this assertion. His administrative ability has been emphatically demonstrated in the able manner in which he has managed important Railway and Manufacturing interests intrusted to his care; and we unhesitatingly believe the Agricultural Department if entrusted to him, would be managed with ability, vigor, honesty and economy. Cardinal virtues, which we trust the administration of our government under you may be Nationally characterized.

Respectfully your obedient servants,

H. B. STRAIT,
DAVID L. HERR,
WM. BICKEL, Collr. Int. Revenue.
DAVID DAY, Postmaster, St. Paul,
H. E. MAME, Clk. U. S. Circuit Court,
WM. A. SPENCER, Clk. U. S. Dist. Court,
WM. W. BILLSON, U. S. Atty,
CHAS. T. THOMPSON, Rector St Peters Church,

Shakopee.

J. W. SENCERBOX,
JOHN EDERT,
PETER GEYERMANN.

At a regular meeting of the Minnesota State Association held at their rooms in the City of Washington D. C., on the 6th inst. the following resolution was offered by Mr. Reeves and unanimously adopted.

Resolved. That having learned that the friends of Gen. W. G. LeDuc have suggested his name to the President of the United States as a suitable person for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture, and knowing him to possess a large experience in practical agriculture as well as an extensive knowledge arising from many years of observation and study of that

subject extending over a large portion of our country, and having also entire confidence in his integrity of character and sterling worth as a citizen, this association earnestly recommends his appointment to that office, feeling fully assured that he will ably discharge all its important responsibilities, reflecting credit on the administration appointing him and the State of Minnesota of which he is an honored citizen.

Resolved. That the President of this association be requested to present a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States in person.

Attest,

CHARLES KING,

President Minn. State Association,

Washington, D. C., April 6, 1877.

A true copy from the minutes of the meeting.

JOHN C. HECK,

Secretary.

Washington, D. C., April 17, 1877.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Sir :

In accordance with the wish of the Minnesota State Association, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration the enclosed resolution expressive of the confidence of the Minnesotians now residing in this city in the ability and integrity of our esteemed fellow citizen Gen. W. G. LeDuc.

When the writer became a citizen of the Territory of Minnesota in 1852 he found Gen. LeDuc living in the city of Saint Paul enjoying to the fullest extent the confidence of that entire community. In the year 1854 he removed to Hastings, Dakota County, for many years past one of the most productive farming districts of our State, where he became interested in the development of the resources of that section and identified himself with its agricultural interests by purchasing and cultivating an extensive farm in which pursuit he has been ever since engaged uninterruptedly, except while in the army during our late domestic strife. His course as a practical agriculturist has been marked by intelligence and industry evincing itself in his being the first to introduce the best seeds, the most valuable breed of animals for the farm, and the style of labor saving machinery the best adapted to the peculiarities of our State.

In Gen. LeDuc there is undoubtedly united the experience and practical ability of the daily plodding farmer, and the reading and thought of the competent and intelligent student of Agriculture in its broadest application to the wants of our peo-

ple. And there is every reason to believe that the eminent prosperity of the farming interests of the country and vicinity of his residence is very largely due to the enterprising spirit infused throughout the community by his efforts to improve and elevate the art of husbandry and make its labors profitable.

Very respectfully, Your Obt. Svt.

CHARLES KING,

President of the Minnesota State Association.

Washington, D. C., April 13, 1877.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

Learning from the Representative of my Congressional District, the Hon. M. H. Dunnell, that the name of my friend Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc, has been presented to you for appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture, I desire to say to your Excellency, that in my opinion, no better man for the place can be found. I have personally known Gen. LeDuc for more than twenty-five years, busy years, in which he in one part of the state of Minnesota, and I in another, have been vigorously employed in redeeming from savage Sioux, and savage nature, the great State whose agricultural productions to-day influence the markets of the world; in projecting and building rail-ways; in opening farms; in promoting manufactures, and doing all practical things needful to build a State; therefore when I speak of General LeDuc I speak of whom I know. For energy of character, breadth of comprehension, knowledge, determined obstinacy of purpose, ingenious fertility of expedients, and economy in application of means to an end, as well as the self-forgetfulness of his friendship and the pronounced detestation of all meanness, he is proverbial. I have for years past been connected with rail-roads, as projector, builder or President. If I was starting a new rail-road anywhere, there is no one whose counsel I would consider more entitled to consideration than Gen. LeDuc's; as to engineering difficulties; as to geology, mineralogy or capability and prospective agricultural resources of the country to be passed through, his judgment is remarkably good. He is a practical farmer and stock raiser as well as a gentleman of scientific attainments and broad culture in books and experience of men and their affairs. My dairy farm of twelve thousand acres with its twenty farm houses, would be worth more to me the day of Gen. LeDuc's appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture, because I believe his services as such would benefit and advance the science and interests of Agriculture throughout the United States. How he would do it, I don't know, but he would find a way or make a way to give efficiency to a Department of Government that at present does not occupy as high a position, as in my opinion, it should.

I don't believe in giving important offices to people because of location, so much as fitness for public service, but if locations are to be considered, surely the agricultural State of Minnesota, with her twenty-three thousand republican majority and a deficiency in public officers when compared with Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, is better entitled to this recognition than the manufacturing State of Pennsylvania that has had possession of this office of Commissioner of Agriculture for years without making it that position among the people of the country it is entitled to.

Knowing that Gen. LeDuc is too modest to urge his own claims, as one of his friends who know and believe in his worthiness and ability, and think the country would better avail itself of the services of such men, whenever and wherever practicable, I desire most earnestly that you favorably consider his appointment.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLARK W. THOMPSON.

I have known Gen. LeDuc for many years, and heartily concur in the above recommendation of Colonel Thompson.

R. F. CROWELL.

St. Catharines, Ont., March 27, 1877.

WM. K. ROGERS, ESQ.,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir :

Since my arrival here a week ago, I have seen the announcement in the papers, that Gen. LeDuc is an applicant for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture.

Being an old democrat, it may not be becoming in me to interfere in any way with appointments under a republican administration, and yet I cannot forbear to give my testimony in regard to the ability, and peculiar fitness of our old friend LeDuc, for the office he seeks. You know him so well, that I need not say more. I trust he will be successful. He has no idea that I am to write you.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. SIBLEY.

Endorsement on Gen. Sibley's letter.

April, 11, 1877.

I heartily concur in the recommendation of Gen. LeDuc for the position herein mentioned, and state that I am personally satisfied from my knowledge of him that he is peculiarly fitted for the same.

GEO. C. THOMAS,

Maj. Gen. Mil. D. C.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

As the name of Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc of this State will be presented for the appointment of Commissioner of Agriculture I take the liberty of giving my testimony in behalf of his appointment especially on the ground of his practical familiarity with the pursuits of Agriculture, the great energy and activity which he would bring to the duties of the place as well as his great information in this special field and generally.

In my judgment he would be the right man in the right place.

His appointment would, I believe, give great satisfaction to our people; it certainly would to your sincere well wisher,

ALEX. RAMSEY.

St. Paul, March 10, 1877.

Owatonna, Minn., April 13, 1877.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc, of Hastings, Minn., is a candidate for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture. Allow me to recommend him *fully and heartily*. He is preeminently *the* man for the position. The State of Minnesota may well present a candidate. It is a growing State, and wholly agricultural. The North West has never been recognized in this Department. The population of the State has largely increased since the last census. Our State may justly claim recognition. Gen. LeDuc does not live in my Congressional District, but he does live in Minnesota.

Very respectfully,

MARK H. DUNNELL,

M. C. from Minn.

St. Paul, March 30, 1877.

R. B. HAYES,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to contribute a word of support to the application of Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture. I have known General LeDuc for many years both as a business man and a personal friend. I am free to say that in my judgment, no better appointment for such place could be made. He is a gentleman of unbounded knowledge in all the agricultural departments of the country, possesses extraordinary literary attainments, and is known as an honorable, high toned man. His appointment will be particu-

larly satisfactory to the people of this section of country, and to none more than to

Your humble servant and friend,

JNO. I. AVERILL,
of Rep. Nat. Com.

St. Paul, Minn., March 29, 1877.

W. K. ROGERS, ESQ.,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir :

Understanding that our delegation has presented the name of our mutual friend, Gen. LeDuc, for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture, I write to say that I have known the General for twenty-eight years, and know that he would fill the requirements exactly. Will you please express to the President that should the appointment be made, it will give general satisfaction to his friends and the country at large?

Your obedient servant,

R. W. JOHNSON,
Brig. Gen. U. S. A.
Retired.

I fully concur in the foregoing statement of General Johnson.

C. W. GRIGGS,
Late Col. 3d Minn. In. Reg.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MINNESOTA STATE GRANGE, P. OF H.,

St. Paul, Minn., April 5, 1877.

THOMAS TUNIS SMITH, Sec'y.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S.

Understanding that friends of General Wm G. LeDuc, including the entire Congressional delegation of Minnesota, have recommended his appointment by the President to the office of Commissioner of Agriculture, I desire to add my recommendation to those already placed before you.

I consider the General eminently well qualified for the position, from his general intelligence, untiring energy and enterprise, and a life long experience and familiarity with farming interests; and I am of opinion that his appointment will be very acceptable to those who are interested in agricultural pursuits throughout the country.

I have been acquainted with General LeDuc for more than twenty years, am a practical farmer, and am very desirous that

the Department of Agriculture should be made all it should be, to the country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS TUNIS SMITH.

TO THE PRESIDENT,

Washington, D. C.

I am informed that there is, or soon will be, a vacancy in the Commissionership of Agriculture. If so I wish to say that I have long felt a deep interest in the success of this Bureau, on account of its influence upon one of the great, but too much neglected, interests of the Nation.

I am personally, and well acquainted with Gen. W. G. LeDuc. I believe that his acquirements, natural taste, and capacity for business eminently fit him for the place and that his appointment would be an evidence of your friendship for the great interest to which I have referred. I must not be understood as wishing to recommend the removal of the present incumbent.

I have the honor to be &c.,

C. DELANO.

OFFICE OF HENRY B. CURTIS.

Mt. Vernon, O., March 13, 1877.

HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT HAYES.

Dear sir :

I understand that Wm. G. LeDuc, Esq., of Minnesota, is an applicant for appointment as Commissioner of the Agricultural Bureau, and if my humble commendation may be of any weight, I desire to give it in his behalf. Mr. LeDuc was a Kenyon boy and married his wife in this city. Perhaps you know him well already. For many years I have been intimately acquainted with him, and it gives me pleasure to certify that I have ever found him to be a gentleman of sterling honor and integrity, of fine culture, and great business capacities.

Hoping you may give his case your most favorable consideration, I am

Very truly yours,

HENRY B. CURTIS.

WESTERN & ATLANTIC RAILROAD COMPANY,

OFFICE TREASURER,

Atlanta, Ga., April 2, 1877.

GEN. WM. G. LEDUC,

Washington, D. C.

Dear sir :

Learning incidentally that you were an applicant for the po-

sition of Commissioner of Agriculture, I thought it would do no harm to recommend to the President that your appointment would give satisfaction in this section to all, especially those who knew you. As you are aware, Mr Peters is the head and front almost, of the agriculturists of the South, having done more for the improvement of stock of various kinds by his own importations, than any other man in the State. He is very much in hopes you will succeed.

Yours truly,

W. C. MORRILL.

WESTERN & ATLANTIC RAILROAD COMPANY,

OFFICE TREASURER,

Atlanta, Ga., April 2, 1877.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

Learning that Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc, of Minnesota, is an applicant for appointment of Commissioner of Agriculture, we the undersigned, most heartily endorse his nomination, and hope he may secure the appointment, being well assured he would administer the office in the interest of the whole country both effectively and with ability.

Very respectfully,

W. C. MORRILL,
R. PETERS.

Jersey City, New Jersey, April 13, 1877.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT:

I am informed that Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc of Minnesota, is a candidate for appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture. I have known Gen. LeDuc for many years, know of his valuable services in the army during the late war, and latterly as a successful practical farmer.

If it is desired to make the Department of Agriculture a valuable auxiliary to the development of the farming interests of the country, I know of no one, who by experience, practical sense, and energy, is better qualified to have the direction of it.

What the country wants in that office is a practical man; when Gen. LeDuc is appointed it will have one.

I am very respectfully your obedient servant,

E. A. CARMAN,

Late Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

Garden City, L. I., N. Y., April 2, 1877.

Hon. R. B. HAYES,

President of the United States.

Dear Mr. President:

Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc requests me to furnish him with a testimonial in support of an application for a position he is seeking under your administration.

This officer accompanied my command in its transfer from the East to the West, and continued on duty with me as Quartermaster of my Corps until it reached Atlanta, and it gives me pleasure to say that no Corps Commander in the Army was ever served with more efficiency, earnestness, and intelligence, than I was by this Gentleman. He had rendered conspicuous services in the war before coming to me, and continued them after I had left the field, and all the reports that have reached me concerning him have uniformly confirmed the impression his services under my command left upon my mind. I only speak of his services while with me, as it is of those that I have personal knowledge. He is a gentleman of large capacity, and of unquestioned integrity, and should you think proper to give his application a favorable consideration I feel well assured that he will give you no cause to regret it.

With great respect I have the honor to be your friend and servant.

J. HOOKER.

Major General.

ENDORSEMENT ON GEN'L. HOOKER'S LETTER,

Washington, D. C., April 9, 1877.

Wm. G. LeDuc was a schoolmate of John Sherman and myself at Lancaster, Ohio, in 1830-36, and I feel a personal interest in his welfare. He has always borne a fine reputation in every community where he has resided, and during the war he promptly responded to the call of his country and rose to a high position. I met him in the war at Chattanooga, and bear willing testimony to his merits as a military officer.

W. C. SHERMAN.

General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, D. C., April 11, 1877.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

It gives me great pleasure to bear my testimony in addition to that of the distinguished officers who have addressed you on

the subject, to the high personal character and distinguished military services of Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc of Minnesota.

In addition to his distinguished military service which entitles him to the highest consideration of the government, there is no doubt of his eminent fitness for the office his friends are anxious he should be appointed to.

I sincerely trust that you may find it consistent with your views to confer this office upon him as I have no doubt he will discharge its duties with an efficiency which will be satisfactory to the Government and the Country.

Very respectfully Sir, Your Obt. Serv't.

JNO. POPE.

Maj. Gen. U. S. A.

Mt. Vernon, Ohio. March 13, 1877.

WAR DEPARTMENT, QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S
OFFICE.

Washington, D. C., April 11, 1877.

I cheerfully bear testimony to the capacity, fidelity and energy which Col. Wm. G. LeDuc showed when a quartermaster during the rebellion.

I first met him personally I think at Chattanooga. He was an excellent officer as is shown by his record in this office and by letters from his immediate military commanders including General Sherman, Thomas and Hooker.

He merits the gratitude of his countrymen.

M. C. MEIGS.

Qr. Mr. Gen'l. Bvt. Maj. Gen'l. U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Adjutant General's Office, March 31, 1877.

TO THE PRESIDENT :

Sir :

Understanding that Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc has been recommended by the entire Minnesota delegation, and many other eminent citizens for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture, I beg to add my testimonial and recommendation.

I have known the General intimately for fourteen years, and thus am aware of his high culture, accompanied by an inflexible integrity and marked adaptability for positions requiring sound judgment and expansive administrative capacity.

His varied resources ever come to the aid of great energy, thus leading promptly to good results. He can readily combine theory and practice, and is thus fitted to a successful adminis-

tration of the office he is seeking. The advancement of the public interest would be his first endeavor, and, no doubt, the Department of Agriculture would, under his charge, soon afford evidence of a masterly superintendence and direction.

He, under the Government, has held the grades of Captain, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier General by Brevet, and has served his country with distinction; leaving a record toned by a modesty characteristic of a true soldier and gentleman.

His brevets of Colonel and Brigadier General were given on the cheerful and cordial recommendation of Major General George H. Thomas, for "efficiency, intelligence, and zeal in the performance of his duties."

With great respect, Mr. President, I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Asst. Adjutant General.

P. S.—A brief of the military record of Gen. LeDuc is appended, and will fully sustain the opinion I have expressed with respect to the integrity of his character, and the energy and intelligence which he will bring to the discharge of any official duty with which he may be intrusted.

BRIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY OF WILLIAM G. LEDUC.

Commissioned Captain A. Q. M. Volunteers April 18, 1862, commission signed by Abraham Lincoln and Edwin M. Stanton.

Assigned to 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps Army Potomac. Joined command May, 1862 at White House, Va., June 3rd 1862 rendered important service by improvising a bridge over railroad trestles, when the rising waters of the Chickahominy had swept away the bridges and divided the army.

June 28 and 29, 1862. Saved at least twelve vital hours to the Army on the retreat to James River by skillful and extraordinary exertion in passing the trains, artillery, and ammunition across White Oak Swamp.

Served with the 2nd Corps until after Antietam; then promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and Corps Q. M. 11th Corps.

Served with 11th Corps as Chief Q. M. Reserve Grand Division and in Fredericksburg, Chancellorville and Gettysburg campaigns.

Went west with General Hooker to the relief of the Army of Cumberland.

In charge of Bridgeport, Ala., organized depot of supplies saved the little steamer Chattanooga from destruction by floating her on pontoons; navigated her to Kelly's Ferry with the first cargo of rations that reached the starving Army.

Served with General Hooker as Chief Quartermaster 20th Corps to Atlanta.

Saved by stratagem, transportation and ammunition trains of the army from capture and destruction at Pumpkin Vine Creek near Dallas.

Served with General Thomas in the Hood campaign, in Tennessee, as Chief Quartermaster in the field. At close of campaign complimented by General Thomas as follows.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT CUMBERLAND,

Nashville, April 1, 1865.

Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Sawyer.

Asssstant Adjutant-General M. D. D.

Colonel :

I have the honor to submit the following supplementary report to my report of the operations of the troops under my command from September 7 to September 31, 1864 as an act of justice to Lieutenant Colonel William G. LeDuc Chief Quartermaster 20th Corps, whose name was inadvertently omitted in that report.

Colonel LeDuc reached Nashville from leave of absence too late to join his proper command, which had then left Atlanta Ga. and was assigned by me to duty temporarily as Chief Quartermaster of the troops then concentrating about Nashville under Major-General Schofield, when the army was concentrated at Nashville and during the pursuit of the enemy.

I cheerfully and cordially commend him for efficiency intelligence, and zeal in the discharge of his duties.

(Signed) GEORGE H. THOMAS,
Major General U. S. A. Commanding.

Thereupon received the rank of Brevet Colonel, and the rank of Brevet Brigadier General, to date from March 13th 1865 for efficiency, intelligence and zeal in the discharge of his duties.

Commission dated April 9, 1866, signed by Andrew Johnson and Edwin M. Stanton. Resigned to take effect August 1, 1865.

Settled all accounts with Quartermaster, Commissary, Ordnance and Treasury Department, satisfactorily, as will appear from Government records.

Endorsement accompanying Gen. Vincent's letter :

I have known Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc for years, have known him intimately, and take great pleasure in saying that he is eminently fitted for the position for which he is herein recommended. I concur fully in all that Gen. Vincent has said in his letter. I believe the ability and force of character of Gen. LeDuc would make the Bureau of Agriculture more useful to the country than it has yet been.

W. P. CARLIN,

Brevet Maj. General, U. S. A.

ADDITIONAL

From the Husbandman, Elmira, New York, April 6, 1881.

Nearly four years ago the affairs of the Agricultural Department at Washington were committed to Gen. LeDuc, who accepted the office of Commissioner without known qualifications, and greatly to the discouragement of that class of farmers that had become disgusted with the insane antics of the previous management. The Department had become the butt of ridicule, because of the vapidity of its high-sounding promise and its perverted purpose which came to be understood as that of tender for Members of Congress. There had never been enough brain in its conduct to give it title to respect, and thoughtful farmers were reflecting upon the advisability of extinguishing the pretense that purported to be an aid to agricultural advancement, while its highest aim was to confer seedy favors upon seedy and sappy politicians, dependent upon the votes of farmers to set them in the luxurious seats of the capitol. It was a burlesque on the interest it professed to serve. Its work was not all bad, it is true, for there were most worthy subordinates, faithfully endeavoring to render useful service to agriculture; but there was no directing force essential to efficient application of the really valuable labors performed by the heads of bureaus and their assistants.

This condition prevailed when Gen. Le Duc took charge of the Department. He had not been recommended by farmers—they had no interest or confidence in him. The first step of the new officer was to seek to establish intimate relations between the farmers of the country and the Department for which they had lost regard. He had not even the names of leading farmers with which to begin—the whole had to be done *de novo*. He requested such county officers as he could reach to supply lists of names and addresses of farmers with whom he might confer; he asked and obtained lists of farmers' clubs, granges and kindred societies, and in this way soon found a constituency, and immediately set himself assiduously to the task of organizing service in the interest of the industry the Department had threatened only pretended to aid.

It was soon found that the new officer had abundant zeal, untiring energy, resolute will and broad intelligence—all admirable qualities, fitting him for the difficult labors he had assumed, and essential for success in an issue promptly developed by his independent thought, for he decided to cease observing the unlawful demands of Congress men for seeds wherewith to tickle voters at home, and so invited a conflict with the powers through whose gracious favor the Department had been supported in return for the influences exerted by free distribution of seeds where they would ripen into ballots. Gen. Le Duc secured a triumph not wholly complete, but great enough to distinguish him as master of the situation.

Meanwhile farmers throughout the land began to see virility in the Department that had reflected digrace on their profession, and they felt growing admiration for the man who had brought

out the darkest difficulties the dawn of usefulness for the one branch of public service organized in behalf of the greatest industry, now taking definite purpose and promising national usefulness. From that time to the present the Department of Agriculture has constantly grown in favor with farmers and its tangible benefits have been distributed over every section of the country.

In the matter of free seed distribution it has not been possible to make it conform to the requirements of sober common sense, for the efforts of the Commissioner have been thwarted by Congresses that have not had in them enough farmers to give the Capitol the faintest odor of the soil; but there has been improvement in this service. In one matter there has been enough good to over-balance all wasted expenditures of previous administrations—that is in the impetus given to sugar-making from sorghum or corn plants, which may be credited fairly to the present chief of the Department.

Now with a new President there comes a cry for change of Commissioner. There are politicians to reward, and the places are coveted. Let it be noted that farmers are not asking that Gen. LeDuc be removed. On the contrary, they have spoken by thousands and ten thousands in behalf of the present incumbent. They want him retained. The National Grange, a representative body, comprising members from every agricultural state of the Union, has made a formal request in writing, to which is appended the signature of every member of that body, for the retention of the present worthy and efficient chief of the Department of Agriculture. Other societies, clubs and associations founded in agriculture have repeated the request. Will their prayer be heeded? Will President Garfield remove the man who more than any other on this continent is approved by the farmers for great service rendered? The question is full of interest, not free from anxiety. Manifestly the country desires that Gen. LeDuc be permitted to carry to their fruition plans inaugurated in the behoof of an industry shamefully neglected in the past by the government that derives from its chief support. Farmers so desire, if their voice is truth, as it must surely be since their representative bodies have displayed great interest in maintaining the efficiency of a service now for the first time in the history of the Department exerted with the specific object of promoting agriculture. The score or more of aspirants for the place redeemed by the present occupant from merited disgrace, have each local support—none of them more in a broad sense—while Gen. LeDuc is earnestly supported by good men in every agricultural community throughout the land. With what effect time will reveal. Let us hope that the disheartening influence of change may be averted by timely declaration by the President, that merit shall be recognized, and the good servant approved.

